

#17 PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

This house was constructed during the late 1890's and is one of those buildings which gives this street its distinctly Victorian character. It features the jerkin head roof that was popular in the second half of the century and in its interior detailing the Colonial Revival is much in evidence particularly in the fine mantle pieces.

As is the case with other buildings elsewhere in the town, this residential structure has become an office building that is surrounded by neighbors, designed for commercial purposes.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-1445
MAGI# 0314454611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

17 West Pennsylvania Avenue, *Smith Building*

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

17 West Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9
Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Accounting House Inc.

Telephone #: 828-9800

STREET & NUMBER

17 West Pennsylvania Avenue

Maryland 21204

CITY, TOWN

Towson

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 4955

Folio #: 009

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☒ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVEDDATE Jan., 1978**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

17 West Pennsylvania Avenue is a large, grey shingled building that is three stories high. The original part of the house, which was brown shingled, is three bays wide, and six bays deep. The original part was erected between 1881-1898, and the newer addition, added c.1935. The house, which is a present offices and a residence, is built on an uncoursed stone foundation. There is a Jerkin-Head roof which is shingled. There is one inside chimney which is located on the East side of the roof, and near the ridge.

The North facade is five bays wide, including the 1935 addition. The addition is two bays wide, and is set back one bay from the front of the house. The original part of the house has a porch on the first story that is three bays wide. The four supporting columns are doric and the pedestals are paneled. Under the porch there is lattice work, and three stairs for reaching the two side-hall entry doors. There are two long, triple-hung windows beside the two doors. One door may not be original, since the building has been converted into first and second story offices. The doors are identical. They are long, fifteen paned glass doors. Above the porch, on the second story there is regular fenestration in the three, 1/1 sash windows. In the gable, there are two side by side 1/1 windows smaller than those on the second floor. There are deep cornices on the front gable. There is a small, one bay addition to the Northeast of the main part. It is one story tall, with one 1/1 sash window, and a balcony for the second story French door. Its foundation has been covered with rock-faced form stone. On the Northwest side of the main form is the 1935 addition. It has a one bay porch; as on the large porch, it has three steps leading up to it. There is one 1/1 sash window to the West of its door, and two similar windows on the second story. All of the windows with the exception of the window on the very small addition, have shutters.

The West facade shows the profiles of both of the North facade porches. There is one 1/1 window on the second story of the main part of the house. The rest of the West facade is comprised of the new addition. It is approximately five bays wide. There are five identical windows on the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

continued

and five of the same on the second floor. There are two gables, with deep cornices, that come together over the center second-story window. Above the gable is a very long, shed dormer that extends the length of the roof. There are two 1/1 sash windows in the dormer.

The Southwest portion of the West facade is very irregular. The addition creates a passageway between the main part, and a narrow addition with a cat-slide roof. Above this, on the third floor, is a small dormer which has two side by side 1/1 sash windows. Above the slight passageway are two ten paned casement windows. The enclosed porch in the rear of the house stands on stone piers and does not have any windows facing West.

The South facade is also very irregular in plan. The Southwest portion is the back side of the addition and it is two bays wide. On the first floor, there are two 1/1 sash windows, identical to the two 1/1 sash windows on the second floor. To the East of this, on the second story are two pairs of 8-paned casement windows. Above this, on the South side of the large dormer is a 1/1 sash window. The cat slide roof is seen in profile. To the East of this is the back side of the main part. It has no windows on the first story. On the second story, there are two 6/6 sash windows. In the deep-corniced gable there is a small single paned window. This portion of the house is supported by stone piers. There is a door on the Southeast corner and steps leading up to it. There is a pair of 8-paned windows on the side projection between the main part of the house and the addition.

The East facade is six bays wide. There are six 1/1 sash windows on the first floor. The three Northeast windows are on the one bay wide and three bay deep projection; above them is the balcony. There are two side by side 1/1 sash windows to the Southeast, over the balcony. To the North of them are the French doors which lead out on to the balcony. On the other half of the East facade, on the second floor, there is another 1/1 sash window, and a very small 1/1 sash window. There are two dormers. The one on the Southeast portion has two 1/1 sash windows. The other dormer to the Northeast has three 1/1 sash windows. All of the windows, with the exception of the French doors have louvered shutters.

According to a former resident of 17 West Pennsylvania Avenue, the house has been altered to accomodate the offices inside. Much of the interior has been changed, but there are various features that remain intact.

In the L-shaped basement, there is much evidence of the original edification. There are brick piers, and a large , stone, central pier

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which has two functions. First, to support the chimney, and secondly, to bear the load of the frame. There is evidence of nails which date back to the late nineteenth century.

On the first floor there are two interesting fireplaces. One is decorated with white porcelain tiles, has reeding on the mantle, and a Greek urn on the frieze, and fluted pilasters, with Corinthian columns. The other is plainer in design, but is decorated with $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X 6" porcelain tiles of tortoise shell coloration. There is architrave trim around all of the windows, and most of the windows have bull's eye corner blocks, although some have plain corner blocks, possibly indicating a later addition.

There are interior windows on the first floor, that are boarded up. They served at one time as an entryway for natural light into the house. The second story also has trim around the doorways and windows, as well as a large fireplace. On the second story landing, there is a built-in hall seat, which is an indication of the "living hallway."

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1881-1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Yellott(owner)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Seventeen West Pennsylvania Avenue is significant not only for its architectural style, but also in its context with the other late nineteenth century buildings nearby. The area was once a fashionable neighborhood; a place where Baltimoreans could enjoy the openness of the country, as well their homes which depicted many Victorian styles. There were examples of the Queen Anne, Italianate, and Colonial Revival styles, of which only a few remain. These buildings are representative of the lifestyles that persisted in the late nineteenth century, and of the union of urban and rural dwellers.

With the sudden growth of the Towson center in recent years, the Victorian image has been suffocated, if not destroyed by high risers, and other edifices which were erected with minimal, or no planning. The unity of the Victorian town, and the Victorian skyline are broken up because of the sporadic building. To retain the atmosphere of the Victorian town, that Towson once was, it is important to preserve the remainder of buildings in the Pennsylvania Avenue area as a unit.

Architecturally, this house reflects the Colonial Revival style, as can be seen by the doric columns, paneled pedestals, equal fenestration, deep cornices, and symmetrical layout. On the interior, such features as the mouldings, corner blocks, and fireplaces also reflect this style. The later additions tend to show more asymetry, with the irregular fenestration, diversity of line, and with the different roof angles. For example, the Jerkin Head roof not only adds distinction to the front facade, but also creates a contrast to the shed-dormer roofs, and the cat slide roof in the back.

At present this particular structure serves the community as offices and as a residence. It is for all these reasons, that it should be
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
 preserved.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1877 atlas of Maryland, Baltimore County
 1898 atlas of Maryland, Baltimore County
 1915 atlas of Maryland, Baltimore County

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 150'x50'x150'x55'

South 150 feet to an alley. 50 feet West, 150 feet North, 55 feet East.
 Next to the Penn Hotel, on the South side of Pennsylvania Avenue.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
 HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

Jane W. Andrews / Historic Towson Surveyer

1/15/78

ORGANIZATION

DATE

2 Goucher College
 STREET & NUMBER

825-3300

TELEPHONE

Box 21 Goucher College
 CITY OR TOWN

Maryland

STATE

Towson

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

| <u>Liber/Folio</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Conveyor to Conveyee</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| 4955/009 | December 31, 1968 | Roy Smith to The Accounting House, Inc. |
| 3987/159 | May 10, 1962 | Roy Smith to Mildred E. Pearce |
| 3987/161 | May 9, 1962 | Mildred Pearce to Roy Smith |
| 915/114 | July 11, 1933 | G.Wm. Parker to Roy Smith |
| 585/482 | February 13, 1924 | Samuel Bayne to Roy Smith |
| 497/496 | April 22, 1918 | Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer to S. Bayne |
| 425/368 | March 27, 1914 | T. Risteau Jenifer to D. of St. Thomas Jen- ifer |
| 337/222 | December 3, 1908 | John Yellott to Elmer Haile |
| 332/596 | July 6, 1908 | Frances Rich to John Yellott |
| 259/510 | April 9, 1902 | John Yellott to Frances Rich |
| 124/324 | August 31, 1881 | Enos Smedley to John Yellott |
| 61/393 | March 13, 1869 | Enos Smedley to John Yellott |

BA-1445

W. Pennsylvania Ave.

17





BA-1445

17 W. PENN A. Ave
N.

W. NIELD
1/78



EARL CRICKERDS
& ASSOCIATES
CERTIFIED PUBLIC
ACCOUNTANTS

NO TRESPASSING WITH CARS
24 HOURS, ANY DAY OR NIGHT
Unauthorized CARS TOWED TO POLLARD'S Lot & Joppe Pkts
AT CAR OWNERS RISK & EXPENSE
CHECKED BY OFF-DUTY PATROLMEN

BA-1445

17 W. PENNA. AVE.
S.

W. NIELD
1/78